

# NEWS

## Record price paid for Clément Massier pottery

NEW YORK — Business started off with a bang Oct. 27 at Jason Jacques' new 73rd Street location in Manhattan, as a featured piece in the gallery's Masterpieces of French Art Pottery 1885-1910 exhibition sold for what is believed to be a record-setting price. Gallery owner Jason Jacques confirmed the exhibition's Clément Massier (French, 1844-1917) "mushroom" vase was purchased for \$100,000, a figure he said is the most ever paid for a work by the artist.

The 13¾in high, 8in diameter vase was made in the French Riviera town of Golfe-Juan, sometime between 1897 and 1899. Jacques said the vase, like all of Massier's uniquely luster-glazed designs, has a look that sets it apart from other French pottery of the Art Nouveau period.

Born into a family of ceramics artisans, Massier's father designed culinary pottery. Clément started out by manufacturing brightly colored, enameled faience wares that appealed to the tastes of a wealthy international clientele that frequented the South of France. Beginning in 1887, in collaboration with painter Lucien Lévy-Dhurmer, Massier produced metallic lusterware never before seen in France. Massier drew upon ceramics traditions of the Near East and East Asia in developing the luster glaze and landscape forms that became his trademark.

"People are buzzing about Art Nouveau again," said Jacques. "Those who stuck their noses up at ceramics are suddenly turning to pottery. They are tired of cold, unfriendly interiors and are applauding ... rich glazes and gorgeous surfaces." As a first-time exhibitor at the Oct. 6-11 International Art & Design Fair in New York, Jacques said he met "hundreds of people interested in Art Nouveau pottery ... it was amazing to see the growing, highly enthusiastic audience for these turn of the century masterworks."

**Contact: 212) 535-7500,  
www.jasonjacques.com**



**Above:** Jason Jacques' move from his former gallery in New York's downtown Chelsea district to an elegant two-story space in New York's Upper East Side has already proved fortuitous for the French art pottery specialist. At his first exhibition in the new location, this Clément Massier "mushroom" vase set a world record for the artist when it sold for \$100,000.